P770040-1301

200

ALAN CRANSTON
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ACTION is assigned to ARA

10

March 16, 1977

To: Congressional Liaison
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

1977 MAR 21 AM 8 56

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FADRC DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Enclosure from: Mr. Rafael Cook
15 Hawthorne Way, #106
San Jose, California 95110

Re: Please respond to Mr. Cook's concerns about human rights in Uruguay and Daniel Mitrione.

I forward the attached for your consideration.

Your report, in duplicate, along with the return of the enclosure will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alan Cranston

Alan Cranston

Please address envelope to:
Senator Alan Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Att: Chris Cohagen

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Lee DATE 4-22-83

RELEASE, EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

b- State Dept. Chronfile

15 Hawthorne Way, Apt. 106,
San Jose, California, 95110,
February 27, 1977

Senator Alan Cranston,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.,

Dear Sir:

President Carter's assessment of the human rights situation in Uruguay is a gross misinterpretation of the facts, and Uruguayans themselves are not to be blamed or punished for those so-called violations.

Human rights violations were imported from the United States of America in the person of Daniel Mitrione, who did his bit by schooling the Authorities in the most effective way.

His sequester and death was the legitimate but mis-guided response of a dedicated group to the upheaval he had produced in that country.

Human rights are sacred to Uruguayans. Only an outside influence could have produced the situation the President has based his conclusions upon.

Respectfully,

Rafael C. Cook

Rafael C. Cook

What does the United States expect for $ 25,000 in aid, timbres y sellados?

DECLASSIFIED

P770051-0090

Dear Senator Cranston:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of March 16, 1977, on behalf of Rafael Cook of San Jose, California. Mr. Cook contends that the Administration's assessment of the human rights situation in Uruguay is a gross misinterpretation of the facts. He also contends that human rights violations in Uruguay were imported from the United States in the person of Daniel Mitrione.

We believe that Mr. Cook is referring to the human rights statements required under Section 502B of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976. The report on Uruguay, as well as all the others, seeks to be factual and does not draw any conclusion whether the government of that country engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights. Statements in the report by non-government groups, such as Amnesty International, are required under the law.

The reference to Daniel Mitrione refers to the U.S. Public Safety Advisor, who was murdered in Uruguay in 1970 during the height of the Tupamaro urban guerrilla movement. Mr. Cook has adopted the thesis of the foreign film made about the Mitrione case, entitled "State of Seige." This film expresses the theme that Mitrione was a symbol of a USAID program which gave Latin American police training in torture methods.

The well-known purpose of our Public Safety program, which Daniel Mitrione headed at the time of his death, was the same as that of all such programs in Latin America -- to increase the effectiveness of police services by using approved professional methods. Our philosophy was that to instill professionalism would lessen the temptation of the host country police to use

The Honorable
Alan Cranston
United States Senate

DEPARTMENT OF STATE / AID

DATE 11/22/77

TO: [illegible]
ENDORSEMENT/ROUTING SYMBOLS
INITIALS/SIGNATURES

unacceptable methods in their attempt to fulfill their mission. Daniel Mitrione, a retired police chief from Richmond, Indiana, was respected by his colleagues. He did not supervise a torture instruction program in Uruguay.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Drafted: ARA/ECA: RCGraham:rc
3/30/77:x-21551:# 040-1807

Clearances: ARA/ECA: RWZIMMERMANN
ARA: GLISTER
H: CCutter